

Appl. No. 10/817,022
Atty Docket No. 1322-002/JRD
Amendment Dated September 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A trailer-stabilizing device extending between a towing vehicle and a fifth-wheel trailer, said trailer-stabilizing device having:

a dampener operably connected between ~~to~~ said towing vehicle and said fifth-wheel trailer defining ~~said dampener having~~ an engaged position in which said dampener applies a dampening force to the fifth wheel trailer,

said dampener having a disengaged position in which the dampener is disconnected between said towing vehicle and said dampening force is not substantially applied to the fifth-wheel trailer; and,

a regulator for commanding the dampener between said engaged position and said disengaged position.

2. (previously presented) A trailer-stabilizing device extending between a towing vehicle and a fifth-wheel trailer, said trailer-stabilizing device having:

an engaged position in which said trailer-stabilizing device operably engages said fifth-wheel trailer and said towing vehicle to apply a dampening force to the trailer,

a disengaged position in which the dampening force is not substantially applied to the fifth-wheel trailer; and,

a regulator for commanding the trailer-stabilizing device between said engaged position and said disengaged position;

wherein said trailer-stabilizing device is secured between the towing vehicle and the fifth-wheel trailer at a position spaced apart from a hitch connecting the towing vehicle to the trailer.

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3. (previously presented) A trailer-stabilizing device extending between a towing vehicle and a fifth-wheel trailer, said trailer-stabilizing device having:
an engaged position in which said trailer-stabilizing device operably engages said fifth-wheel trailer and said towing vehicle to apply a dampening force to the trailer,
a disengaged position in which the dampening force is not substantially applied to the fifth-wheel trailer; and,
a regulator for commanding the trailer-stabilizing device between said engaged position and said disengaged position;
wherein the trailer has a main cabin, and said dampening force is a substantially downward force applied by the trailer-stabilizing device to the main cabin.

4. (currently amended) A trailer-stabilizing device operably extending between a towing vehicle and a fifth-wheel trailer, said trailer-stabilizing device having:
a linkage extendable between said towing vehicle and said trailer;
an engaged position in which said ~~trailer-stabilizing device operably~~ linkage extends between engages said fifth-wheel trailer and said towing vehicle to apply a dampening force to the fifth-wheel trailer,
a disengaged position in which the linkage is disconnected between said towing vehicle and said ~~dampening force is not substantially applied to the fifth-wheel~~ trailer;
and,
a regulator for commanding the trailer-stabilizing device between said engaged position and said disengaged position;
~~wherein said trailer-stabilizing device includes a linkage extending between said towing vehicle and said trailer.~~

5. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 4, wherein said towing vehicle is a pick-up truck.

6. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 5, wherein said pick-up truck has a rear end with a receiver secured thereto, and said trailer-stabilizing device is detachably secured to said receiver.

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7. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 4, wherein said linkage is substantially a four bar linkage.

8. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 4, wherein said linkage includes:

an arm pivotally secured to a base;
a wheel rotatably secured toward a distal end of said arm; and,
said wheel operably engages a ramp extending from said trailer when said trailer-stabilizing device is in said engaged position.

9. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 8, wherein said trailer-stabilizing device is in said engaged position when said towing vehicle and said trailer are traveling substantially straight.

10. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 8, wherein said wheel disengages said ramp when said trailer is in said disengaged position.

11. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 10, wherein said trailer-stabilizing device is in said disengaged position when said towing vehicle and said trailer are turning.

12. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 8, wherein said dampening force is provided by a pneumatic chamber operably secured to said trailer-stabilizing device.

13. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 12, wherein said pneumatic chamber is substantially flexible.

14. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 12, wherein said pneumatic chamber is a pneumatic cylinder.

15. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 10, wherein said regulator includes a pressure relief valve that activates when a predefined upper pressure is achieved in the pneumatic chamber.

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16. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 15, wherein said regulator includes a manually actuated pressure relief valve.

17. (currently amended) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 16, wherein:
said manually actuated pressure relief valve has a control handle;
and said towing vehicle has a driver's compartment;
and said control handle is positioned within said driver's compartment so that a driver of the vehicle may activate the control handle from within said driver's compartment.

18. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 4, wherein said linkage has a stored position wherein said trailer-stabilizing device does not extend between said towing vehicle and said trailer.

19. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 18, wherein linkage is pivotally secured to said towing vehicle and pivoted upward away from said trailer in said stored position.

20. (original) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 19, wherein said linkage may be secured in said stored position.

21. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 1, wherein said towing vehicle is a pick-up truck.

22. (currently amended) ~~The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 21, wherein said A~~
trailer-stabilizing device extending between a pick-up truck and a fifth-wheel trailer,
said pick-up truck having a rear end with a receiver secured thereto, ~~and said~~
trailer-stabilizing device is detachably secured to said receiver and having:
a dampener operably connected to said pick-up truck and said fifth-wheel trailer,
said dampener having an engaged position in which said dampener applies a
dampening force to the fifth wheel trailer,
said dampener having a disengaged position in which the dampening force is not
substantially applied to the fifth-wheel trailer; and,
a regulator for commanding the dampener between said engaged position and
said disengaged position.

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23. (currently amended) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 24~~22~~, wherein said trailer-stabilizing device includes a linkage extending between said pick-up truck and said fifth-wheel trailer~~towing vehicle and said trailer~~.

24. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 23, wherein said linkage is substantially a four bar linkage.

25. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 2, wherein said towing vehicle is a pick-up truck.

26. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 25, wherein said pick-up truck has a rear end with a receiver secured thereto, and said trailer-stabilizing device is detachably secured to said receiver.

27. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 25, wherein said trailer-stabilizing device includes a linkage extending between said towing vehicle and said trailer.

28. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 25, wherein said linkage is substantially a four bar linkage.

29. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 3, wherein said towing vehicle is a pick-up truck.

30. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 29, wherein said pick-up truck has a rear end with a receiver secured thereto, and said trailer-stabilizing device is detachably secured to said receiver.

31. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 29, wherein said trailer-stabilizing device includes a linkage extending between said towing vehicle and said trailer.

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32. (previously presented) The trailer-stabilizing device of claim 29, wherein said linkage is substantially a four bar linkage.